



## National Institute of Standards and Technology

### Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; CHIPS Pre-application Information Collection.

**AGENCY:** National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of Information Collection, request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments by email to Nina Argent, Management Analyst, National Institute of Standards and Technology, at [PRAComments@doc.gov](mailto:PRAComments@doc.gov). Please reference OMB Control Number 0693-0095 in the subject line of your comments. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed to Cierra Bean, Business Operations Analyst, CHIPS Program Office, [askchips@chips.gov](mailto:askchips@chips.gov), (202) 815-2677.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### *I. Abstract*

The CHIPS Incentives Program is authorized by Title XCIX—Creating Helpful

Incentives to Produce Semiconductors for America of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Pub. L. 116-283, referred to as the CHIPS Act or Act), as amended by the CHIPS Act of 2022 (Division A of Pub. L. 117-167). The CHIPS Incentives Program is administered by the CHIPS Program Office (CPO) within the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) of the United States Department of Commerce (Department). Businesses and other entities applying for CHIPS Act funding under the CHIPS Incentive Program may, but are not required to, submit a pre-application via a form available at <https://applications.chips.gov/> to obtain feedback before submitting a full application. The pre-application phase creates an opportunity for dialogue between the Department of Commerce and the applicant to ensure the applicant is ready to meet program requirements and address program priorities.

Information to be collected includes:

- A Cover Page with general contact and project information;
- A Project Plan that describes each project expected to be included in the future full application. The project plan should explain how each project satisfies the program description and the evaluation criteria in the CHIPS Incentive Program – Commercial Fabrication Facilities Notice of Funding Opportunity;
- Financial Information summarizing financial information for the applicant and the project(s), as well as a detailed sources and uses of funds, including overview of CHIPS incentive request;
- Workforce Development Information describing the applicant's approach to recruit, train, and retain a diverse and skilled set of workers to fill the good jobs that will be created to operate its semiconductor facilities.

## *II. Method of Collection*

Applications must be submitted electronically at <https://applications.chips.gov/>.

The Pre-application will include basic contact information, picklists, cost estimates, and brief

project narratives. Some of the submissions will be entered into fields within the web-based form. Some of the information will be document uploads into the system by the respondent. The method was chosen to reduce applicant burden by eliminating redundant entries to the greatest extent possible and consolidating entries into one online form.

### *III. Data*

*OMB Control Number:* 0693-0095.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 140.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 60 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 8,400 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$397,488.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.

*Legal Authority:* CHIPS Act of 2022 (Division A of Pub. L. 117-167) (the Act).

### *IV. Request for Comments*

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department/Bureau to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) Evaluate ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before

including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

*Department PRA Clearance Officer,*

*Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs,*

*Commerce Department.*

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